

## REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 17, 2006

Attending: Debra Dull, Pam Juliano, Tim Gywther, Steve Burge, Richard Root, Norm Johnson, Don Larsen, Lou Sansevero, Claudia Berner, Jeri Hamilton, Nancy Bentley, Miles Nelson, Carol Rogers, Tony Dayish, Ira Hatch, Kirk Sitterud, Anne Mackiewicz, Judy Chambley

Staff: Sheryl Nisely, Stephen Jensen, Delena Fish, Susan Etzel, Shelly Ivie, Kelly Thornton, Bob Gilbert

Visitors: Brad King - House of Representatives/College of Eastern Utah  
Dan Jarrell - Vocational Rehabilitation/Moab  
Jordan Hatch - College of Eastern Utah

A special welcome was given to Lou Sansevero and Carol Rogers who are new members of the council, and also to the visitors who were in attendance at this meeting.

The first portion of the council meeting was turned over to Sheryl Nisley. Sheryl, Lisa Patterson, Lisa Roman, Brenda Hurst and Bill Eckenbrecht of the Moab EC were in attendance to the meeting. They wanted to provide a special recognition to the individuals from private businesses and local agencies. The individuals who attended have provided assistance and opportunities to our customers. It has given our customers the opportunity to learn and enhance their skills in a work environment. Some of those skills may have been hard skills such as working with power tools; or soft skills such as dealing with bosses, co-workers, day care issues, etc. These supervisors are critical because they monitor the individual, and then provide feedback to our agency and also to the customer. We would like to thank the individuals for the great service they have provided. Some of these individuals provided worksites to youth and adults. Special attention was given to customers with barriers such as blindness, homelessness, etc. Even though there may have been barriers, the employers were willing to provide additional accommodations and training to our customers. Each of the individuals were presented a plaque and given a special thanks for making this program a great success. The employers were as follows:

Red Rock Lodge  
Clark Wilson, Clarks Part's Plus  
Jose Tejada, Sheri Griffith River Expedition  
Tammy Jackson, Moab Valley Inn  
Dean Dalton, Grand County High School  
Donna Jordan, BLM  
Slick Rock Cycles  
Moab Cycles

Teresa Wyatt, Chamber of Commerce  
Grand County Library  
Grand County Maintenance Dept  
Senior Citizens  
Dan Johnson, Grand County School,  
Moab Paper Company  
Sunshine Nursery & Mechanical Repair  
Moab Brewery

#### Committee Reports:

Targeted Industry Task Force: Sheryl Nisely has been the chairperson over this committee. At the Target Industry Committee meeting early today, it was decided that this task force committee will now disband. A new committee, Energy Systems Development and Support Group will be formed to work as an advisor to the new training center. Steven Burge has been asked to be the chairman over this committee. Susan Etzel will be the co-chair.

Steve Burge provided an update on the training center. At our last regional council meeting on December 16, 2005, CEU was waiting to hear if they would receive the funding for the new training center. On December 19, 2005, CEU was awarded a \$2.7 million grant to implement a new training program center for energy programs. Even though the project was awarded the \$2.7 million, it was still not enough money to acquire the 38,000 sq ft. training center at Willow Creek mine. Senator Dmitrich and Representative King were able to lobby for the additional money at the legislature. The Utah Legislature appropriated the additional funding, so the training center could be purchased. The training in the new center will include training on mining, gas, power plants, etc. The program may offer a degree that is comparable to an associate degree. Commissioner Burge, who is the interim director, anticipates that they will be able to start training in the fall and they expect to train 2,000 individuals per year.

A board has been appointed to help with the operation of this new training center. Sam Quigley is the President. Members of our regional council also occupy membership on the board. They are: Steven Burge, Susan Etzel, Debra Dull, and Carol Rogers. In addition to the board, there are five additional sub-committees who will assist in creating/operating this new training center.

Debra thanked Sheryl Nisely for her leadership with the Targeted Industries Task Committee. She did a great job and we appreciate her work on this new committee.

Youth Committee. The Moab Youth Leadership Project was reviewed at the Youth Council Meeting. Lisa Patterson presented an outline for their project. Their project will involve cleaning up campgrounds and redirecting trash to the appropriate distribution centers. The youth council approved this project. The regional council reviewed the project and also agreed to approve the project.

Terri Harris gave a presentation on the Transitioning to Adult Living program. This program is for teens who are leaving foster care and will begin to live as an adult.

Shelly Ivie presented the performance measure information for the youth.

Tim Gywther provided information on the entrepreneurial programs within the schools. Should the Youth Council be a coordinating body for the entrepreneur programs in the area schools? At this time it was felt that the Economic Business Development may be able to provide some services to the youth. We will pursue this option and have a discussion at our next meeting to see if we will take on this role.

Legislative Report. Brad King was asked to provide us with an overview on the 2006 legislative session. This years session was different than most, as the State had a larger surplus than they had in past years. The media reported that there was a billion dollar surplus. When in actuality, there was a \$200,000,000 surplus of one time money and everything else was a projection. This was the biggest projected surplus in the history for the state. The legislature ended up awarding \$60,000,000. to transportation. Most of the money was taken out of the general fund. The general fund is used for health and human services, and public safety. Public Safety seemed to be the program that came out on top, while several of the human service programs received cuts. The bad news is that even though public transportation received a large allocation, most of the money will be spent on transportation issues in Utah, Davis and Weber counties.

Is there anyone who has introduced a bill to subsidize the infrastructure in our rural counties - such as the roads? There have been several bills of this nature in the past. In our area there are three representatives and two senators. The tax money, which comes from our area, helps to fund additional programs throughout the state. The problem is that we can vote in favor of the bill, but there are many other legislatures that also have a vote, and rural legislators get overwhelmed by the Wasatch Front votes. They do not want to see the funding cut from their area so they oppose our initiatives. There is additional money in the CIB account that could be accessed. But it seems like if we talk about taking money out of this account, someone who normally wouldn't have access to the account begins to get the access and the funding is given to other entities.

Health and Human Services were the departments that will suffer the most from the legislative efforts. There was already a \$31 million cut from the federal government. The State allocated the money that was cut by the feds, but there was still a large hole that needed to be filled. Additional cuts will have to be made to the dental and visions programs, and also to programs for the disabled and senior citizens.

The general fund also supports the GA medical program that we have for individuals. In past years, this program has taken several funding cuts which has reduced the amount of services that can be provided. At times they have thought about eliminating this program because it cannot be fully funded. The program continues to be funded, but the amount of services it can provide is pretty small. A concern was expressed, that if we can't pay for the services, why don't they consider eliminating the program. Representative King's

opinion is that if we continue to have a large surplus we need to fund the programs and eliminate the waiting lists we have on several human services programs.

Public education funding comes from income taxes. Public Education received a 6% increase which was the largest increase they have had in the past 19 years. But, it still did not move the schools from the bottom of the list as far as the amount of dollars that are spent for each student. Higher education did not receive any new programmatic money.

There was also a new bill that was created to give direction for an energy policy. In the past they haven't had a bill of this nature. This bill will provide a \$20,000,000 tax cut for industries and business. This new bill will be beneficial to corporations such as UP & L.

A two percent sales tax reduction will be made on the food tax. The tax for the local area will be left alone. There is still \$70,000,000 left that was earmarked as a deduction on income taxes. This reduction will either be given as a flat tax or to reduce taxes. The legislature will meet during a special session and make their final decisions on tax cuts.

Representative King thanked Senator Dmitrich for his work on the legislature. Due to Senator's Dmitrich's efforts, there were several small projects that were funded. Some of those included additional funding for the Green River golf course, native preservation for the San Juan area, and one additional project in Moab. Mike is a well-respected individual and the legislative community thinks highly of him.

Representative King also commended the people in the area that he serves. He feels they are so supportive and he appreciates the opportunity he has to serve them.

CEU Heavy Equipment/Trucking. Jordan Hatch is the department chair for the CEU Heavy Equipment and Trucking department. He was invited to the meeting to provide us with an overview as to what CEU can offer our customers. CEU provides a 16 credit hour program for heavy equipment; a 15 credit hour program for trucking; and 36 hour credit program for a combination of heavy equipment/trucking. Out of all the truck driving schools in Utah, CEU places more of their students locally. There are more female students enrolled in these two courses than there ever has been in the past.

Jordan receives calls everyday for people to be truck drivers and heavy equipment operators. Right now they cannot supply enough people to fit the bill. There are large trucking companies who provide a good salary and good benefits. An individual may be hired by one company, and the company across the street will offer more benefits or a higher salary. With the lack of qualified drivers, there may be some good competition for trained drivers.

CEU program is an open entry program, which means the student can start the program at any time. The course is a competency-based program. The student has 14 weeks to master the skill and be a success when they leave the program. Normally, a student can complete the course within two and one-half months. The program at CEU teaches the

student how to drive a truck or operate heavy equipment. The specific training, such as hauling coal, or ash from the power plants is usually given by the employer once the individual has been hired.

CEU's program in Price is separate from the program that is in Blanding. They operate as two separate programs even though the requirements are the same.

To be able to obtain a CDL license, a person can pick up a manual, study it for an evening and probably pass the test. But until you get into the truck you won't know how to drive the equipment. The program at CEU provides the necessary hands-on education for students to operate the equipment, make it stop and go, and know how to handle the limitations of a loaded and unloaded truck.

Delena mentioned that in the past they have found that customers want to be trained by the long haul companies. The training can be completed at a faster pace. But, what they have found is when the customer returns they are missing several key parts of the training. There have been times that they have had to refer the customer back to CEU for additional training. Jordan has been an asset in providing this training. Steve Burge also mentioned that there might be a need to expand the program if we increase production in this energy field.

FEP Program. Shelly Ivie, Program Manager for DWS, presented information on the Family Employment Program (FEP). The FEP program is a temporary assistance program that is offered by the federal government. The population that benefits from these services is usually a single parent or a two-parent household where one of the individuals may not be able to work. The assistance that they receive is a financial grant. In lieu of receiving the finances, they have to agree to participate in employment related activities. At the time of their application, an assessment will be used to determine their skills, and also identify any barriers they may have such as childcare, transportation, etc. The activities that we would like to have them do are: Employment, apprenticeships, on-the-job training, and unpaid internships. We may also ask them to work with other agencies to address issues and get them past their barriers. If they fail to participate, then we do intervention and problem solving and encourage them to be successful and maintain their families.

Judy Chambley followed up on Shelly's comments. Our FEP caseload has decreased since the 36-month time limit started. With the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) reauthorization, the federal government has also indicated that 50% of our caseload needs to be participating in employment activities. The food stamp caseload is also on a decline right now. At the present time we are currently serving 31% of our employers. Our goal is to serve 40% of the employers in our region.

Ann Mackiewicz asked if we could also provide update on the childcare programs at this meeting.

Debra thanked the committee representative for sending the Council agenda packets out prior to the meetings. It gives us the opportunity to review the material before the meeting is conducted.

Blanding ME Review. The Blanding Office will have a management evaluation at their office from March 20 - March 24, 2006. Stephen Jensen has invited Harold Lyman to participate in the entrance and exit review. The group will also be traveling to Navajo Mountain so they can review the process at that location.. It was suggested that we have a report on the ME at the next meeting.

Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2006. (Since the last regional council meeting, it has been rescheduled to June 1, 2006, to coincide with the ribbon-cutting of the Western States Energy Training Center in Carbon County.)

Action Item: Include information and a up date on the childcare programs.